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September 30, 2008

TO: Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: Wendy L. Watanabe *Wendy L. Watanabe*
Acting Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – PENNACLE
FOUNDATION INCORPORATED - CARSON STREET BOYS, CORNING
AVENUE GIRLS AND LITTLE WINGS GIRLS GROUP HOMES**

We have completed a review of Carson Street Boys, Corning Avenue Girls and Little Wings Girls Group Homes (Group Home or Agency) operated by Pennacle Foundation, Incorporated. Each Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Carson Street Boys and Corning Avenue Girls Group Home are each four-bed facilities, which provides care for boys and girls ages 11-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Carson Street Boys Group Home was providing services for four DCFS children. Corning Avenue Girls Group Home was providing services for three DCFS children

Little Wings Girls Group Home is a three-bed facility, which provides care for girls ages 11-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social and emotional difficulties. At the time, of the monitoring visit, Little Wings Girls Group Home was providing services for one DCFS child, one Regional Center child and one Orange County child.

Carson Street Boys Group Home is located in the Fourth District. Corning Avenue Girls and Little Wings Girls Group Homes are both located in the Second District.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection and interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with children are designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by the Agency and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

Summary of Findings

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. However, the Agency needs to address several deficient areas.

Carson Street Boys Group Home needs to landscape the front yard. The Group Home also needs to assess all children for needed services within thirty days of placement, develop comprehensive Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) that include input from all members of the treatment team and ensure that the children receive identified treatment services. In addition, the Group Home needs to provide children with the opportunity to participate in emancipation and vocational training programs and ensure that children are informed about their psychotropic medication. The children also need to be encouraged or assisted in creating photo albums/life books.

Corning Avenue Girls Group Home needs to re-paint the exterior window frames, clean the kitchen fanlight, the office/den door, the carpet in the living room and bedrooms, the shower and toilet in bathroom two and the closets in bedroom three. In addition, the Group Home needs to provide closet doors and repair the vanity in bedroom three. The children also need to be encouraged or assisted in creating photo albums/life books.

Little Wings Girls Group Home needs to paint the front exterior and the security bars of the Group Home and landscape the front flowerbed. The Group Home also needs to clean or replace the kitchen trash bin, clean the interior wall space around the light switches and the floor and the floor moldings in the dining room and the hallway. In addition, the Group Home needs to assess all children for needed services within thirty days of placement and obtain current authorizations for children taking psychotropic medications. The children also need to be encouraged or assisted in creating photo albums/life books.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Don Chadwick at (626) 293-1102.

WLW:MMO:DC:CC:jdh

Attachments

c: William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer
Patricia S. Ploehn, Director, DCFS
Susan Kerr, Senior Deputy Director, DCFS
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer
Carolyn Ruffin, Board Chair, Pennacle Foundation, Incorporated
Greer Davis, Executive Director, Pennacle Foundation, Incorporated
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**Pinnacle Foundation, Incorporated
Carson Street Boys Group Home
Lakewood, California 90713
License Number: 197803159
Rate Classification Level: 14**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Carson Street Boys Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The back yard is clean and adequately landscaped. However, the front yard is not landscaped.

The interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendation

- 1. Pinnacle Foundation management landscape the front yard.**

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. However, children are not assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

All members of the treatment team are not included in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs). The NSPs are not current, comprehensive and do not include short or long term goals.

Case files do not reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving necessary treatment services.

Recommendations**2. Pennacle Foundation management:**

- a. Assess all children for needed services within thirty days of placement.
- b. Include all members of the treatment team in the development and implementation of the NSPs.
- c. Maintain current Needs and Services Plans.
- d. Develop comprehensive NSPs that include both short and long term goals.
- e. Maintain adequate documentation to show that children are receiving identified treatment services.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews****Sample size: Two****Comments:**

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help and survival skills.

Children are not provided with sufficient opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendation

3. Pinnacle Foundation management provide children with appropriate opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities. Children also participate in extra-curricular, enrichment and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

Children have current court authorizations for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained and children are aware of their right to refuse medication. However, children are not informed about the psychotropic medications that they are taking.

Recommendation

4. Pinnacle Foundation management inform children about the psychotropic medications that they are taking.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Interviews with children

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff and report that the staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are allowed to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail and have private visitors. Children attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks. Children also receive voluntary medical, dental and psychiatric care.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum weekly allowance. Children spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items. However, children are not encouraged or assisted in creating or maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendation

- 5. Pinnacle Foundation management encourage and assist children in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.**

**Pennacle Foundation, Incorporated
Corning Avenue Girls Group Home
Los Angeles, California 90056
License Number: 198202803
Rate Classification Level: 14**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Corning Avenue Girls Group Home is located in a residential community. The front and back yards are clean and adequately landscaped. However, the paint on the exterior window frames is chipped and peeling.

The interior of the Group Home is adequately maintained. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The common quarters are neat and the Group Home provides a home like environment. However, the carpet in the living room has various stains, the kitchen fanlight is dirty, the door in the office/den is dirty and the curtains on the door are also soiled. In bathroom two, the shower door and glass blocks are stained and the area behind the toilet is dirty.

The children's bedrooms have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture and lighting. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. However, the carpets in bedrooms two and three are soiled and there is a foul odor in bedroom three. Also in bedroom three, the closets are dirty and disorderly and do not have appropriate doors or coverings and the vanity in the bathroom has worn and chipped paint. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

1. Pennacle Foundation Group Home management:

- a. Paint the exterior window frames.**
- b. Clean the carpet in the living room.**
- c. Clean the fanlight in the kitchen.**

- d. Clean the door in the office/den and the curtains on the door.
- e. Clean the entire shower and shower door in bathroom two.
- f. Clean the area around the toilet in bathroom two.
- g. Clean or replace the carpets in bedrooms two and three.
- h. Identify the odor source and clean bedroom three.
- i. Provide each closet opening with appropriate doors or coverings in bedroom three.
- j. Clean and organize the interior of each closet in bedroom three.
- k. Repair or replace the vanity in bedroom three.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interview

Sample size: One

Comments:

The child meets the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. The child was assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The treatment team develops and implements the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) with input from the child. The NSPs are current, comprehensive and include short and long term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that the child is receiving treatment services.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interview

Sample size: One

Comments:

The child is attending school. The child is provided with educational support and resources to meet her educational needs and is progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help and survival skills.

The child is provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interview**

Sample size: One

Comments:

The Group Home provides the child with sufficient recreational activities and leisure time. The child is provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities. The child also participates in extra-curricular, enrichment and social activities in which she has an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents****Comments:**

The child has a current court authorization for psychotropic medication she is taking. Documentation confirms that the child is routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

The child is informed about her psychotropic medication and is aware of her right to refuse medication. Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Child Interview

Sample size: One

Comments:

The child is informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. The child reports that she feels safe in the Group Home and is provided with appropriate staff supervision. The child expresses satisfaction with the quality of her interactions with staff and reports that the staff treats her with respect and dignity.

The child reports that she is assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. The child is allowed to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail and have private visitors. The child attends religious services of her choice.

The child reports that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

The child reports satisfaction with meals and snacks. The child also receives voluntary medical, dental and psychiatric care.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interview

Sample size: One

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to the child. The child is provided with opportunities to select her own clothes. Clothing provided to the child is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides the child with the required minimum weekly allowance. The child spends her allowance as she chooses.

The Group Home provides the child with adequate personal care items. However, the child is not encouraged or assisted in creating or maintaining a photo album/life book.

Recommendation

- 2. Pennacle Foundation management encourage and assist all children in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.**

**Pennacle Foundation, Incorporated
Little Wings Girls Group Home
Los Angeles, California 90008
License Number: 198203831
Rate Classification Level: 18**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Little Wings Group Home is located in a residential community. The back yard is clean and adequately landscaped. However, the front exterior of the Group Home and the security bars have chipped and peeling paint. The front flowerbed lacks any landscape.

The interior of the Group Home is adequately maintained. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The common quarters are neat and the Group Home provides a home-like environment. However, the wall space around the light switches, floor and floor moldings in the dining room and hallway are dirty. The kitchen trash bin is soiled.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

1. Pennacle Foundation management:

- a. Paint the exterior walls and the safety bars that have peeling or chipped paint.**
- b. Landscape the front flowerbed.**

- c. Clean the interior wall space around the light switches, the floor and the floor moldings in the dining room and the hallway.
- d. Clean or replace the indoor kitchen trash bin.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interview

Sample size: One

Comments:

The child meets the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. However, the child was not assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The treatment team develops and implements the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) with input from the child. The NSPs are current, comprehensive and include short and long term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that the child is receiving treatment services.

Recommendation

- 2. Pinnacle Foundation management assess all children for needed services within thirty days of placement.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interview

Sample size: One

Comments:

The child is attending school. The child is provided with educational support and resources to meet his educational needs and is progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of child's daily living, self-help and survival skills.

The child is provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interview

Sample size: One

Comments:

The Group Home provides the child with sufficient recreational activities and leisure time. The child is provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities. The child also participates in extra-curricular, enrichment and social activities in which he has an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

Documentation confirms that the child is routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist. However, the child does not have a current court authorization for the psychotropic medication that he is taking.

The child is informed about his psychotropic medication and he is aware of his right to refuse medication. Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

Recommendation

3. Pinnacle Foundation management ensure that all children have current court authorizations for the psychotropic medications that they are taking.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Child Interview

Sample size: One**Comments:**

The child is informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. The child reports that he feels safe in the Group Home and is provided with appropriate staff supervision. The child expresses satisfaction with the quality of his interactions with staff and reports that the staff treats him with respect and dignity.

The child reports that he is assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. The child is allowed to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail and have private visitors. The child attends religious services of his choice.

The child reports that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

The child reports satisfaction with meals and snacks. The child also receives voluntary medical, dental and psychiatric care.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interview****Sample size: One****Comments:**

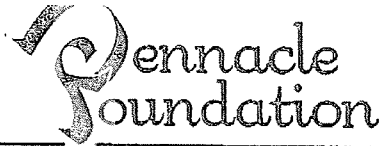
The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to the child. The child is provided with opportunities to select his own clothes. Clothing provided to the child is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides the child with the required minimum weekly allowance. The child spends his allowance as he chooses.

The Group Home provides the child with adequate personal care items. However, the child is not encouraged or assisted in creating or maintaining a photo album/life book.

Recommendation

4. Pinnacle Foundation management encourage and assist all children in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.



A Non-Profit Organization for the Developmentally Disabled Youth
Corporate (323) 750-7624 / fax (323) 753-1381 / Pgr (800) 800-9456

Carson Group Home

6133 E. Carson St.
Lakewood, Ca. 90713

1. Recommendations:

- a. Pennacle Foundation Group Home Management landscapes the front yard.**

IMPLEMENTED

- The gardener re-seeded the front yard and beauty bark was put in the areas where there is high traffic. The Facility Manager will be responsible to ensure that the yard is aesthetically appropriate.

2. Recommendations:

- a. Assess all children for needed services within thirty days**
- b. Include the treatment team in the development and implementation of NSPs**
- c. Maintain current Needs and services Plans**
- d. Develop and implement comprehensive NSP**
- e. Identify necessary treatment service and document services provided to children**

IMPLEMENTED

- All residents' needs and services are evaluated within the thirty days of placement and every 90 days thereafter.
- Input for all member of the treatment team and the child will is included in the development and implementation of all needs and service plans
- Facility Social Worker will monitor the Needs and Services plans for timely submission and comprehensive service plans.
- Documentation on specific treatment services identified for each residents has been implemented.

The Social Worker, Administrator and the Facility Manager will ensure that the Needs and Services Plan and treatment plan are completed in a timely manner and that they are comprehensive and specific to each child.

3. Recommendations:

- a. Pennacle Foundation Group Home management provide children with appropriate opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs**

IMPLEMENTED

Pinnacle Foundation currently has an in-house independent living program and all resident participate in an outside ILP program.

4. Recommendations:

- **Pinnacle Foundation Group Home management inform children about the psychotropic medication they are taking**

IMPLEMENTED

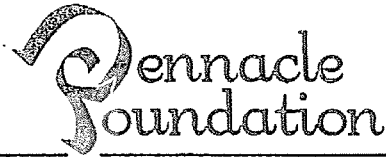
Medication rights have been discussed with all residents. The facility manager is responsible to review all medication with the minor along with the prescribing physician. Documentation of the review will be noted and placed in the minors file.

5. Recommendations:

- **Pinnacle Foundation Group Home management encourage and assist children in creating and maintaining photo albums/ life books**

IMPLEMENTED

All minors have life books. Pinnacle has a specific group to ensure that the minors maintain life books.



A Non-Profit Organization for the Developmentally Disabled Youth
Corporate (323) 750-7624 / fax (323) 753-1381 / Pgr (800) 800-9456

Corning Group Home
5643 Corning Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90056

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Repair the exterior window frame
2. Clean the carpet in the living room
3. Clean the fan light in the kitchen
4. Clean the office den door to the back yard and the curtains on the door
5. Clean the entire shower and shower door in the bathroom two
6. Clean the area around the toilet in bathroom two
7. Clean or replace the carpets in bedroom two and three
8. Clean and sanitize bedroom three
9. Provide each closet opening in bedroom three with appropriate doors or coverage
10. Clean and organize the interior of each closet in bedroom three
11. Repair the vanity in bedroom three

IMPLEMENTED

- Exterior window frame was repaired on 10/30/07
- Living room carpet was cleaned
- Fan in the kitchen was cleaned
- Office door was cleaned and curtains were replaced.
- Entire shower including the door was cleaned.
- Area around the toilet was cleaned
- Carpet in bedroom two and three was replaced
- Bedroom three was cleaned and sanitized
- Closet curtains were purchased and placed in closet openings
- Closets in bedroom three was cleaned and organized
- Vanity in bedroom three was repaired

The facility Manager will be responsible to monitor that the entire facility and maintained the facility in a healthy, clean and sanitized condition. The maintenance contractor will inspect the facility with the manager at least once a month

2. Recommendations:

- Pennacle Foundation Group Home management encourage and assist children in creating and maintaining photo albums/ life books

IMPLEMENTED

All minors have life books. Pennacle has a specific group to ensure that the minors maintain life books.



A Non-Profit Organization for the Developmentally Disabled Youth
Corporate (323) 750-7624 / fax (323) 753-1381 / Pgr (800) 800-9456

Little Wings Girls Group Home
Los Angeles, 90008

1. Recommendations:

- a. Paint the exterior walls and safety bars
- b. Landscape the front flowerbed
- c. Clean the interior wall space around the light switches, the floor and the floorboards.
- d. Moldings in the dining room and hallway
- e. Clean or replace the indoor kitchen trash bin

IMPLEMENTED

- All exterior wall and safety bars were painted
- Flowerbed in the front were landscaped
- Interior wall, floors and floorboards were all cleaned
- Molding in the dining room was cleaned
- Kitchen trash was replaced

All repairs were completed and all fixtures and rooms were cleaned. The facility Manager is responsible to ensure that the entire facility is maintained in a healthy, clean and sanitized condition.

2. RECOMMENDATION

Pennacle Foundation Group Home management assess all children for needed services within thirty days of placement

IMPLEMENTED

- All residents' needs and services are evaluated within the thirty days of placement and every 90 days thereafter.

The Social Worker, Administrator and the Facility Manager will monitor that the Needs and Services Plan and treatment plan are completed in a timely manner and that they are comprehensive and specific to each child.

3. RECOMMENDATION

Pennacle Foundation Group home management ensure that all children have current court authorization for the psychotropic medication that they are taking.

IMPLEMENTED

- Administration has current court authorization for all minors and will ensure that current authorization are on file at all times

4. RECOMMENDATION

Pinnacle Foundation Group Home management encourage and assist children in creating and maintaining photo albums/ life books

IMPLEMENTED

All minors have life books. Pinnacle has a specific group to ensure that the minors maintain life books.

Carolyn Ruffin and Lynn Alexander, Assistant Administrators are the quality assurance staff and will be responsible to ensure the group home plans are working correctly.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Greer Y. Davis" followed by a small circular mark.

Greer Y. Davis, Administrator